

Diversity of media ownership is important for a functioning democracy. Cross ownership of multiple media venues will limit the number of voices available to the public. Mr. Powell's publicly stated concept that the Internet and cable television provide new diversity and that this overrides the need for diversity of ownership of broadcast and print media is elitist and naive. Consolidation of information available to the general public will weaken local news coverage, not expand it, as newsrooms from print and broadcast venues merge and reporters are laid off. Major news websites that serve the majority of the public are, and will continue to be, sponsored by the media giants who are part of the consolidation. Cable television also is owned by these same media giants. Please reconsider your rulings and strengthen regulation of media ownership. Further, please also use these media outlets for full disclosure of your commission's activities and do not hide your draft rulings from the public. Thankyou.